

Advanced Notice of Proposed Rule-Making:

Water quality challenges
in the
Bay Delta Estuary



Background

- Poor water quality
- Interim Federal Action Plan
- EPA water quality role



Purpose

Assess the effectiveness of water quality programs designed to protect the Estuary's aquatic species

Water Quality Program Evaluation

I. ANPR

- A. Identify issues
- B. Summarize science
- C. Identify regulatory status
- D. Seek public input



II. Evaluate Water Quality Programs

- A. Synthesize public comment
- B. Issue Final Assessment Report

Content of ANPR

1. Summary of Clean Water Act Programs
2. Status of Bay Delta estuarine resources
3. Critical water quality issues impacting aquatic resources
 - a. Scientific knowledge
 - b. Regulatory framework
 - c. Request public input

Critical Water Quality Challenges

Contaminants

ammonia

selenium

pesticides

contaminants of emerging concern

Habitat

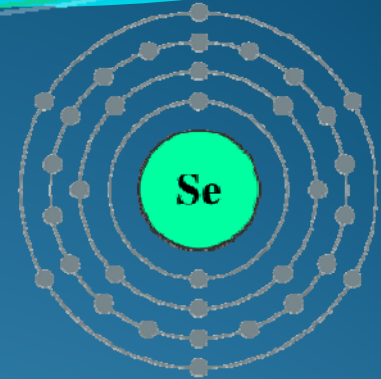
estuarine conditions

migratory corridors

wetlands



Selenium



- Impact on aquatic organisms
 - Toxic to aquatic organisms and water dependent wildlife.
- Regulatory framework
 - Impaired waters
 - Water quality criteria
 - Total Maximum Daily Load
- Follow-up Actions
 - Revise and expand selenium criteria guidance



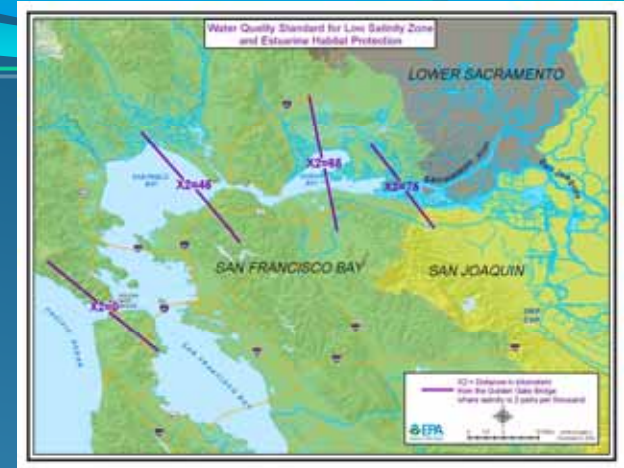
Pesticides

- Impact on aquatic organisms
 - Toxic to fish, invertebrates, and algae
- Regulatory framework
 - Impaired waters
 - Water quality criteria
 - TMDL
 - Irrigated Lands Program
- Follow-up actions



Estuarine Habitat

- Impact on aquatic resources
 - Recent sharp drop in open water estuarine species populations
- Regulatory framework
 - Estuarine habitat and endangered and threatened species habitat are designated uses
 - Recent focus on low salinity zone in fall
- Follow-up actions



Next steps

- Collect public comment
- Evaluate water quality programs
- Issue final assessment

Closing Remarks

- Water quality impairments persist in the Bay Delta Estuary.
- Are CWA programs sufficiently protecting water quality?
- What other actions should be taken?
- We are interested in your comments.

